

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing damage to a machine having at least one drive motor, an electrical power supply system for said motor and a motor drive controller for said motor comprising the steps of

- monitoring the electrical power supply system for the presence and maintenance of a required limits of a predefined quality of power,
- detecting ~~the presence of~~ an unwanted state ~~of in which~~ the quality of power from said electrical power supply system is outside said required limits,
- transmitting an indication of said unwanted state in real time to said drive controller;
- said drive controller initiating a drive braking function for said motor in response to the unwanted state,
- whereby said machine is slowed or brought to a standstill.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said machine has at least two drive motors and a motor drive controller for each motor, one of said drive controllers having master functionality, the indication of unwanted state having been transmitted to said drive controller having master functionality, further comprising the steps of synchronizing the operation of said at least two drive motors with each other, and synchronizing the drive braking function of said motors in response to an unwanted power supply system state.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising using a real-time Ethernet for the transmission of an unwanted system state to said drive controller.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising transmitting an unwanted system state in real time to the drive controller having master functionality and providing this information to other drive controllers via a real-time cross communication.

11. (Currently Amended) A machine comprising at least two rotating machine elements,

synchronizable individual drive controllers for one of said drive controllers having master functionality, each of said rotating machine elements,

an electrical power supply system for said machine elements,

a monitor for detecting an unwanted state in which the quality of power from of said electrical power supply system is outside said required limits,

a data communication system for transmitting an indication of an unwanted power supply system state to said drive controller having master functionality, said drive controller having master functionality communicating said indication to all other drive controllers, and

braking means for each of said rotating machine elements responsive to their respective drive controllers for synchronously slowing rotation of said machine elements and bringing them to a standstill in response to the unwanted power supply state.

12. (Previously Presented) A machine according to claim 11, wherein the machine is a printing machine and wherein the data communication system comprises a real-time Ethernet, and a real-time cross communication system for communicating an unwanted system state from said drive controller having master functionality to other drive controllers.

13. (NEW) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of monitoring the electrical power supply system for failure.

14. (NEW) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of detecting an unwanted state further determines an unwanted state in case of a detected failure of said electrical power supply system occurs.

15. (NEW) The machine according to claim 11, further comprising means for monitoring the electrical power supply system for failure.

16. (NEW) The machine according to claim 15, wherein said monitor for detecting an unwanted state are operable to further determine an unwanted state in case of a detected failure of said electrical power supply system occurs.